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Dean Invited to Deliver a Keynote Address



Our Dean, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, was invited to give a keynote address on "Buddhist Studies and Buddhist Practice" at the International Conference on "Buddhism Across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange" on February 16, 2009 at the Orchard Hotel, Singapore. The conference was organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, and chaired by Ambassador K. Kesavapany. The conference comprised 4 plenary sessions and 11 parallel sessions ran across four

38 enthusiastic parents of BALAC students participating, offering appreciative comments and valuable suggestions on ways to consolidate and improve the Program in the future. on January 24, 2009.

days from February 16 to February 19, 2009. Participants included professors, scholars and administrators from U.S.A, U.K, Canada, Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, Iran, Japan, China, India, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. The other keynote address on "Buddha and the Modern World" was delivered by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen, Department of Economics, Harvard University, U.S.A. ❀

CU Website ranked No. 112 in the world and No. 19 in Asia

According to the latest global ranking of the most popular university websites conducted by www.4icu.org or "4 International Colleges & Universities" which assesses universities on the criteria of website reliability and updated data, CU was ranked No.112 of the world's 200 most popular websites, followed by Khonkaen University at No.160 and Mahidol University at No.182 respectively. In terms of the regional arena, CU scored No. 19 on the list of Asia's 100 most popular university websites. ❀



Courtesy Visit



Professor Dr. Aribowo, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Airlangga University, together with his four Deputy Deans, paid a visit to our Faculty on February 6, 2009. On this occasion, they were cordially received by Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for Foreign Affairs, and Assistant Professor Sunij Sutanthavibul, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs. In the course of warm and productive discussions, proposals were raised to explore the possibility of formal academic and cultural cooperation between Airlangga University and Chulalongkorn University.

Airlangga University is one of the oldest state universities in Indonesia. Located in Surabaya, East Java, the university was established in 1948 as a branch of the University of Indonesia. The University comprises 11 Faculties with a combined population of approximately 23,000 students and 1500 faculty members. ❀



BALAC Meets Parents

On January 24, 2009, the Bachelor of Arts Program in Language and Culture organized a meeting for parents of BALAC students under the title, "BALAC meets Parents." The Faculty Dean, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapot Assavavirulhakarn got proceedings off to a perfect start with a warm welcome speech that had just the right touch of friendly casualness. This was followed by a productive information session delivered by Ajarn Dr. Suradech Chotudompan, Director of the BALAC Program, that briefed parents on academic activities as well as general rules and regulations of the Program. Assistant Professor Sankavat Praditpongse, Deputy Dean for Student Affairs, also spoke about student activities and campus life at Chula. The meeting ended with short talks by two outstanding Arts alumni, Ms. Supreeya Sonthiarunthat and Ajarn Phenchan Phothiborisuth, who were invited to share with the audience their views on potential career paths for BALAC graduates. In all, it was a very successful

meeting with 38 enthusiastic parents of BALAC students participating, offering appreciative comments and valuable suggestions on ways to consolidate and improve the Program in the future.

BALAC Growing in Its Second Year

Following the successful completion of BALAC's first year, the Faculty's new international Program now looks forward to an increasingly bright future. This year, BALAC received a record number of student applications, more than five times the number of last year's applicants. The revised selection procedures included both a written exam and an interview, with results due to be released on March 10, 2009. Given the substantially increased number of applicants, many of whom possess both excellent academic and extra-curricular track records, BALAC is confident that the Program will recruit a new intake of very promising students for our Faculty.

English Research Writing Assistance Unit

One of the new policies of the Dean is to encourage faculty members to publish their papers in international journals and/or to assist them to present their papers at international conferences. To facilitate the policy, the Dean requested the Office of International Affairs to establish an English Research Writing Assistance Unit which offers consultation to faculty members who need assistance in editing their papers written in English. Anyone who wishes to avail of this new service can contact the Secretary of the Unit, Ms. Mallika Samart, for further details at 02-218-4885.



CU Semesters

During these two weeks all the ajarns will be busy proctoring final exams and grading papers. Following this intense period of bustling activity, we'll be rewarded with some time off for relaxation or the pursuit of other academic or personal interests. For those who have teaching responsibilities, the summer semester starts on March 30 and ends on May 9, 2009. While for those involved with the international program, the current semester runs until May. After the summer break for the regular program, the Faculty will be back in full swing again on June 1, 2009 when the first semester of the new academic year begins. We hope you will all manage to enjoy some rest from the hard work of the long academic year of 2008 and will be feeling fully rejuvenated by the time we get back together again.

Contact Us

The Section of International Affairs welcomes suggestions and comments from you—our readers. If you would like to talk to us or have news to be published in the Aksara Arts Newsletter, you can call our secretary, Ms. Mallika Samart, at 02-218-4885 or send an email to her at jasmine9906@hotmail.com.